

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the courtesy shown by the Examiner and his supervisor in discussing this case with Applicant's representative, Rong Yang, on December 17, 2010. During the interview, the Examiners agreed that features in revised claim 1 distinguish over the references of record. The discussions of the interview are reflected in the above amendments and the following remarks.

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 1 has been revised. Support for the revisions can be found in, e.g., Fig. 1 and paragraphs [0010]-[0011], [0022] and [0024]-[0025] of the specification, among other places. Claim 9 has been revised editorially. Claims 1 and 5-10 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iechi et al., (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0213952) in view of Morita et al., (JP 2003-084686) and in further view of Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0164497). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 requires a thin film transistor unit and a display element unit being separated from each other. This arrangement allows the thin film transistor unit to be covered by a display element unit such that the distance that gas and moisture have to travel to reach the thin film transistor unit from outside has advantageously been increased. This effectively suppresses the permeation of gas and moisture from the atmosphere into the thin film transistor unit and avoids deterioration of the physical property of the thin film transistor unit, thus helps to extend the life of the display apparatus (see e.g., page 3, lines 23-27 and page 10, lines 13-20 of the specification, among other places).

Iechi et al., Morita et al. and Garcia et al., either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a thin film transistor unit and a display element unit being separated from each other, as required by claim 1. On the other hand, Iechi et al. discuss an organic semiconductor layer 13 that "services as both the luminescence layer and the channel layer of the transistor" (see Iechi et al., paragraph [0037] and Fig. 2).

Morita et al. merely discuss a liquid crystal display device that has an increased current flow and improved luminance efficiency, where the liquid crystal display device includes a

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semiconductor membrane 30 having a source electrode 20 and a drain electrode 60 (see Morita et al., Abstract and Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 5), and do not remedy the deficiencies of Iechi et al.

Carcia et al. merely discuss composite barriers 20, 60 that are used to improve the resistance to oxygen and moisture degradation of an organic electronic device 10 including an active layer 40 (see Garcia et al., Figs. 1-4 and paragraph [0030]), and do not remedy the deficiencies of Iechi et al. and Morita et al..

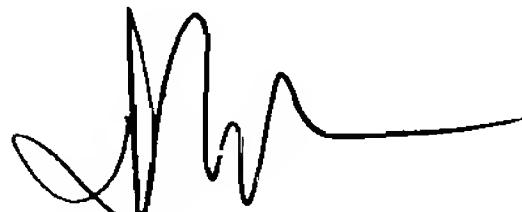
For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Iechi et al. in view of Morita et al. and Garcia et al. Claims 5-10 depend from claim 1 and are patentable along with claim 1 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612) 455-3804.

Respectfully submitted,

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